

Message Text

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51

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 OMB-01 IO-14 SAB-01 EUR-25

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01

ACDA-19 EB-11 CU-04 HEW-08 AID-20 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /217 W

----- 116537

R 210837Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6284

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

UNCLAS KUALA LUMPUR 0737

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MY, PK, XC, XF, XI

SUBJECT: PM'S PRESS RELEASE ON ISLAMIC SUMMIT

1. AT FEBRUARY 20, PRESS CONFERENCE PRIME MINISTER RAZAK ISSUED FOLLOWING PREPARED STATEMENT: QUOTE MALAYSIA'S COMPLETE SOLIDARITY WITH THE ARAB COUNTRIES IN THEIR CONFLICT WITH ISRAEL IS WELL-KNOWN AND I DO NOT NEED TO ELABORATE ON IT HERE. WHETHER IT IS THE QUESTION OF THE ARAB LANDS WHICH HAVE BEEN FORCIBLY OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL, OR THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO THEIR OWN HOMELAND, OR THE FUTURE OF JERUSALEM, WE HAVE GIVEN OUR TOTAL SUPPORT TO THE ARAB COUNTRIES. THE QUESTION NOW IS HOW SUCH SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY CAN BE MANIFESTED IN PRACTICAL WAYS. THE ARAB COUNTRIES DO NOT LACK FOR MAN-POWER OR WEALTH BUT I SHALL MAKE IT CLEAR THAT MALAYSIA STANDS READY TO

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SUPPORT ANY PROPOSAL THEY HAVE TO ASSIST THEM IN ANY WAY

WITHIN OUR MEANS.

ONE THING MUSLIM COUNTRIES SHOULD CERTAINLY DO IS TO STRENGTHEN OUR CO-OPERATION WITH ONE ANOTHER IN ALL PRACTICAL WAYS, WHETHER IN TRADE AND ECONOMIC MATTERS, IN THE DIPLOMATIC FIELD, OR IN THE FIELDS OF RELIGION, CULTURE, EDUCATION, INFORMATION, SPORTS AND SO ON. WE SHOULD ALSO CO-OPERATE TOGETHER IN THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK WHICH IS BEING ESTABLISHED SO THAT IT BECOMES A TRULY STRONG AND EFFECTIVE INSTITUTION WHICH WOULD ASSIST THE DEVELOPMENT OF ISLAMIC COUNTRIES.

THE THREAD RUNNING THROUGH ALL THIS IS ISLAMIC SOLIDARITY. I THINK FOR THE FIRST TIME IN CENTURIES, ISLAMIC UNITY HAS BECOME A REAL POSSIBILITY. THAT POSSIBILITY WILL BE REALIZED NOT BY WORDS BUT BY CONCRETE AND SPECIFIC DEEDS. WE MUST NOW BUILD ON THE FOUNDATION WHICH EXISTS AND, THROUGH A PRACTICAL PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES IN SUCH FIELDS AS I HAVE MENTIONED, DEVELOP A SENSE OF SOLIDARITY AND COHESION AMONG MUSLIM COUNTRIES. MY MESSAGE IN ONE WORD TO THE LAHORE ISLAMIC SUMMIT IS THEREFORE: UNITY. LET US REMAIN UNITED. LET US STRENGTHEN OUR UNITY. I SEE IN FACT THE BEGINNINGS OF A TRUE COMMONWEALTH OF MUSLIM COUNTRIES. MALAYSIA WILL DO ITS UTMOST TO BRING THAT ABOUT.

LEST I BE MISUNDERSTOOD, I MUST ALSO EMPHASIZE THAT THE MUSLIM SOLIDARITY AND MUSLIM UNITY WHICH I ENVISAGE WILL NOT BE A FORCE TO CONFRONT OR TO INTIMIDATE. I SEE IT AS A FORCE FOR GOOD IN THE WORLD, AS A FORCE WHICH STANDS FOR PEACE, FOR JUSTICE AND FOR THE PROSPERITY OF MEN AND NATIONS, AS IS ENJOINED IN THE PRECEPTS OF ISLAM.

TO ME THE LAHORE ISLAMIC SUMMIT IS IMPORTANT ABOVE ALL FOR THE SUPREME OPPORTUNITY IT PROVIDES TO LAY THE FOUNDATIONS OF AMUSLIM COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS. GIVEN THE WILL AND, EQUALLY AS IMPORTANT, THE PRACTICAL WILLINGNESS TO WORK OUT THE SPECIFIC AND MUNDANE DETAILS OF BUILDING SUCH AN ASSOCIATION, I AM CONFIDENT WE WILL SUCCEED. IT IS IN THAT SPIRIT THAT I SHALL BE PROCEEDING TO THE CONFERENCE. END QUOTE.

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2. COMMENT: ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONTINUES TO RECEIVE GREAT ATTENTION FROM ALL MALAYSIAN MEDIA, FAR EXCEEDING COVERAGE OF OTHER RECENT MEETINGS SUCH AS ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT. UNDERHILL

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